

# Library Quarterly

SUMMER 2024

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*the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library*





## Message from the Director

This year, 2024, we celebrate Vernon Area Public Library's 50th Anniversary! I would like to invite each of you in the District to the Summer Reading Club kickoff on the afternoon of June 9th, from 1–3 p.m. This festive commemoration marking the library's presence in the community from 1974–2024 will feature a vintage video arcade, treats and live music. In addition, the Library Foundation is celebrating this 50 year milestone by sponsoring "Read!" t-shirts for the first 1000 children who sign up for Vernon Area's Summer Library Club. The library is grateful for the Foundation's partnership with local merchants to make this a possibility for youth in the community up to grade 5, and to underscore the importance of reading.

This is an event to connect with others in your community and to start your summer reading with some of the beautifully curated collection that the library provides. If you are unable to join us for the celebration on the 9th, I encourage you to pick up reading logs for everyone in your family the next time you visit the library. As you will see in this edition of *Library Quarterly*, summer reading is for every age, and we'd enjoy the opportunity to see you again, and to provide reading and materials recommendations to you based on your preferences.

Enjoy the season and see you soon!

## Vernon Area Public Library

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marc Fenton, *President*  
Jonathan Passman, *Vice President*  
Victoria Thompson, *Treasurer*  
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## Library Quarterly

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Sign up for news and program  
info by email: [VAPLD.info/subscribe](mailto:VAPLD.info/subscribe)

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Library cards, renewals:  
224-543-1483

Adult Desk: 224-543-1485,  
[AdultDesk@VAPLD.info](mailto:AdultDesk@VAPLD.info)

Youth Desk: 224-543-1485,  
[YouthDesk@VAPLD.info](mailto:YouthDesk@VAPLD.info)

Senior/Homebound: 224-543-1406,  
[senior@VAPLD.info](mailto:senior@VAPLD.info)





## Honoring the Past, Planning for the Future

The Vernon Area Public Library District was founded in 1974 to provide our community with public resources for learning and exploration. This year, we celebrate 50 years of fulfilling that mission. As we honor the path that brought us to today, we also look ahead to the needs of the future.

What adjustments are required to meet the changing needs of our community? How can we make the best use of the resources we have available? A new strategic framework helps to answer those questions.

Adopted by the library board this spring, the framework calls for efforts to cultivate curiosity, create desirable and sustainable public spaces, and foster a sense of community and belonging.

Key activities include working with an architect to maximize public use of the library building and grounds and looking into a shared library catalog to provide greater access to more materials. Other action items include expanding the Library of Things and maker-type offerings for content creation.

Several of these initiatives are already underway, including information-gathering sessions with library architects that took place in recent months (pictured above).

Find full details on the library website at [VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan](http://VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan) and track progress as reported each month at the library board meeting.

### Autorenewal

Did you know? When an item's due date arrives, our system will automatically check to see if it can be renewed. If it can, we will extend your due date for you. No need to log in or call to refresh your loan; it will happen automatically — giving you one less thing on your to-do list.

### Community Events

Connect with us at these summer events for information, activities, and giveaways.

#### Buffalo Grove Pride Picnic

Sunday, June 2, 11:30 am–2:30 pm 🍀 Mike Rylko Park

#### Buffalo Grove National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 5:30–7:30 pm 🍀 Willow Stream Park



# Historical Hits

*you may have missed*

One of the joys of a good read: there's no expiration date! It's never too late to enjoy one of the stellar books that came out in 2023. Here are some historical fiction hits you might've missed the first time around.

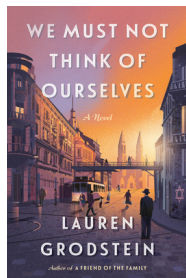
## Book Club Potential

The House Is on Fire by Rachel Beanland

The Last Carolina Girl by Meagan Church

Night Wherever We Go by Tracey Rose Peyton

River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer



## Wartime Stories

We Must Not Think of Ourselves by Lauren Grodstein

The Secret Book of Flora Lea by Patti Callahan Henry

The Librarian of Burned Books by Brianna Labuskes

Beyond That, the Sea by Laura Spence-Ash

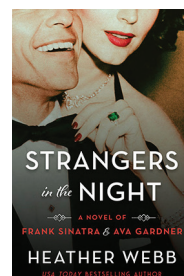
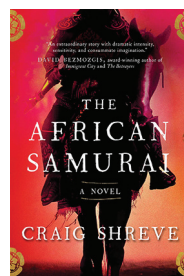
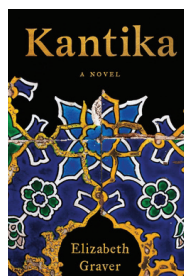
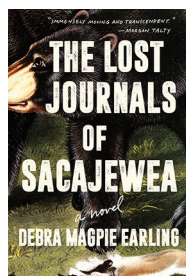
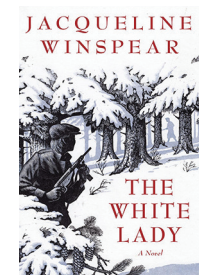
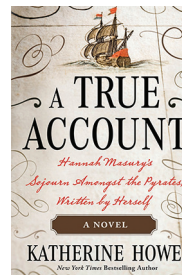
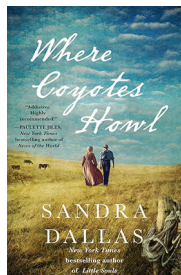
## Genre Blends

Where Coyotes Howl by Sandra Dallas

A True Account by Katherine Howe

Pandora by Susan Stokes-Chapman

The White Lady by Jacqueline Winspear



## Reimagining Real-Life Figures

The Lost Journals of Sacajewea by Debra Magpie Earling

Kantika by Elizabeth Graver

The African Samurai by Craig Shreve

Strangers in the Night by Heather Webb



## Featured Resources *for adults*



### PAYWALL-FREE NEWS

Access The Economist, The New York Times, USA Today and other major publications when you log in to PressReader with your library card. [VAPLD.info/PressReader](http://VAPLD.info/PressReader)



### SENIOR ACTIVITY KITS

Check out a tote bag filled with books and items that encourage connection and conversation with loved ones with dementia or Alzheimer's. [VAPLD.info/SeniorActivity](http://VAPLD.info/SeniorActivity)



### MUSEUM ADVENTURES

Check out discounts with your library card! Offers include free or discounted admission to destinations like the Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Botanic Garden, the Dunn Museum, and Volo Museum. [VAPLD.info/museum-passes](http://VAPLD.info/museum-passes)

## Classes & Events *for adults*

Note location with each event (🌿 outdoors, 🏛 indoors, 📺 online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1485.

### Outdoor Concerts

Bring a blanket or chairs and enjoy live music performances on the lawn all summer long. Performances take place in the Library Learning Garden, located behind the main library building. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

#### The World Music of Lamajamal

Classical, folk, and sacred music traditions from the Middle East, North Africa, Balkans, Türkiye, Greece, and South Asia.

Tuesday, June 25, 1–2 pm 🌿

#### Corner Boys

Acoustic trio with guitar, bass, and vocals performs favorite covers from Lyle Lovett to Bruce Springsteen.

Tuesday, July 9, 1–2 pm 🌿

#### Rosie & the Rivets **ALL AGES**

Enjoy rock 'n' roll favorites from the '50s and '60s, plus newer music with a retro twist. Refreshments from Kona Ice and Cookies w/Flavor food trucks available for purchase. Part of the "Summer in the 'Shire" concert series offered in partnership with Village of Lincolnshire. No signup required.

Thursday, July 11, 7–9 pm 🌿

#### Playing in the Bluegrass

Live performance with Old Town School musician–instructors Coby Maddox and Lisa Joy DeRosia illuminates the origins and structures of this American roots music genre.

Tuesday, August 6, 1–2 pm 🌿



Rosie & The Rivets, July 11





*The Great Lakes & You, June 26*

### Illinois Libraries Present: Dr. Temple Grandin on The Hidden Gifts of Visual Thinkers

A quarter-century after her memoir forever changed how the world understood autism, Grandin reveals, celebrates, and advocates for neurodiversity with her newest book, *Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions*. Log in for this live, online event.

*This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries. Funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

Tuesday, June 4, 7–8 pm

### Plant the Library Garden

Master gardeners share gardening basics, then help us plant the library garden, a source of organic produce for Vernon Township Food Pantry customers throughout the summer.

Thursday, June 6

Adults: 10–11 am

Families with children in grades K–5: 11:30 am–12:30 pm

### Summer Library Celebration

Celebrate 50 great years of library service with this retro-themed fest for all ages. Enjoy groovy live music from Old Town School, vintage arcade games, and ice cream treats. Pick up materials to be part of this year's Summer Library Club for all ages during your visit.

Sunday, June 9, 1–3 pm

### Pollinating Flowers for Sustainable Landscaping

Yost Yard & Garden Design founder Sara Yost shares eco-friendly techniques to bring beauty to your yard while helping to improve the soil, air, and conditions for wildlife.

Wednesday, June 12, 7–8 pm

### Tinseltown Inventor™: The Most Beautiful Woman in the World

This performance by History At Play™, LLC explores the true story of Hedy Lamarr, a young, Austrian refugee who transforms to become a Hollywood star, while inventing technology that would forever change society.

Monday, June 17, 1–2 pm

### Art Workshop: Mosaic Tile

Learn about this ancient art form, then assemble your own design under the guidance of instructor Ashley Samson

Monday, June 24, 7–8:30 pm

### Protecting Water, Sustaining Life: The Great Lakes & You

Experts from Alliance for the Great Lakes highlight these nearby natural wonders, the critical issues facing them, and what you can do to help.

Wednesday, June 26, 7–8 pm



*Mobile Museum of Tolerance, June 27–28*

### Mobile Museum of Tolerance

Traveling exhibits from the Simon Wiesenthal Center aim to promote human dignity by empowering people to raise their voice to combat anti-Semitism, bullying, racism, hate, and intolerance. Drop in; no signup needed.

Thursday, June 27, 2–8 pm or Friday, June 28, 10 am–4 pm

### Book Club Bash

An annual favorite! Get fresh ideas for your book group or personal reading list from Random House rep John Hastie and "The Good Book Fairy," blogger Lauren Margolin. Plus prizes and giveaways galore.

Wednesday, July 10, 7–8 pm

### History of Coffee

Indie coffeehouse owner/roaster Brian Moskalik shares the history and science of coffee. Includes tasting.

Wednesday, July 17, 1–2 pm



### Forest Bathing at Ryerson Woods

Take a meditative, guided nature walk with certified forest therapy guide Gayle Byck.

Saturday, July 20, 9–10:30 am 🌿 Ryerson Conservation Area, Riverwoods

### What Americans Don't Know About the Olympic Games & Why

Learn about Olympism, the Olympic Movement, and the organizations that own and control the Games from sociologist and International Olympic Committee advisor John MacAloon.

Wednesday, July 24, 7–8 pm 🏛️

### Introduction to Pickling & Preserving

Culinary instructor Emily Paster shares equipment needs, food safety tips, and recipes for water-bath canning, a safe and easy method of home food preservation.

Tuesday, July 30, 7–8:30 pm 🏛️

### Art Workshop: Fabric Painting with Fruit & Vegetables

Imprint a design on a canvas tote bag or dish towel using "stamps" from the garden or grocery. Art instructor Shari Pontillo of Twisted Fiber Studios leads.

Weds, July 31, 4–5:30 pm or 6:30–8 pm 🌿

### We're All Plastic People Now

Plastic pollution poses a significant threat to the health of people and the environment. Watch the PBS documentary *We're All Plastic People Now* on your own prior to the program, then hear from a panel of local legislators and entrepreneurs about potential solutions.

Tuesday, August 6, 7–8 pm 🏛️ Z

### English as a Second Language (ESL) Class Signup

Informational meeting and placement testing for free English classes at the library. Classes meet two times each week beginning September 3/4. For information, call Mundelein District 120 Adult Education at 847-949-2200 ext. 1399.

Returning students: Monday, August 19, 9:15 am–12 pm 🏛️

New students: Wednesday, August 21, 9:15 am–12 pm 🏛️

### Election Literacy 2024: Psychology Behind Political Decisions

Political Scientist in Residence Alexandra Filindra, Ph.D., examines factors that influence voter behavior in sometimes surprising ways.

Sunday, August 25, 1–2 pm 🏛️

### Chicago's Ever-Changing Lakefront

Architectural historian Laurie Petersen discusses the personalities and places that have drastically altered the Chicago shoreline over the past century.

Tuesday, August 27, 1–2 pm 🏛️



Chicago's Ever-Changing Lakefront, August 27

## Personal Finance

### Leave it, Move it, Roll it: Employer Retirement Plan Options

Recently switched jobs or retired? Learn your options for assets being held in employer-sponsored retirement plans with financial advisor Roy Mason.

Wednesday, July 17, 6:30–7:30 pm 🏛️ Z

### Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances

Designed for those providing elder care for a parent or other loved one, this program from Alzheimer's Association covers planning, avoiding financial abuse and fraud, having tough conversations, and finding support.

Thursday, July 18, 10–11:30 am Z

### Get Your Docs in a Row

Help your family avoid chaos and heartache during a crisis. Shire Law Group shares tips about organizing your personal documents before they are needed.

Thursday, August 1, 6:30–7:30 pm 🏛️ Z





## Discussion Groups & Meetups

### Games for Grown-ups **TEENS & ADULTS**

Play tabletop games together online or at the library, individually or as a group.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm

June 2; July 7, 21; August 4

### English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm

On Zoom: June 4, July 9, August 6

In person: June 18, July 23, August 20

### Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the best sellers.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am

June 13: *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark

July 11: *The Trackers* by Charles Frazier

### Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback and discuss the publishing business in this informal group. All writers welcome.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm

June 13, July 11, August 8

### World Language Movie Discussion

View the movie on Kanopy or check out the DVD, then join a discussion with other fans of international cinema.

Wednesdays, 7–8 pm

June 19: *Embrace of the Serpent*

August 21: *The Quiet Girl*

### Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

For readers in their 20s and 30s. See [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) for details and signup.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm The Chatter Box, Long Grove

June 20, July 18, August 15

### Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log in to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm

June 21: *The Hero*

July 19: *Triangle of Sadness*

August 16: *How to Blow Up a Pipeline*

### Off the Hook Knit & Crochet Group

Craft in the company of other crafters, online. A great way to keep your projects on track, share ideas, and socialize virtually with people who share your interest in crafting.

Mondays, 7–8:30 pm

June 24, July 22, August 26

### Memory Café

Offering people with memory loss and their care partners activity and connection in a safe, supportive environment.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove

June 27, July 25, August 22

### Novel Night Book Discussion

Read and discuss *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. A young girl reads every book on a secret list she found, transporting her from the painful realities she's facing at home, then passes the list on to a lonely widower desperate to connect with his bookworm granddaughter.

Tuesday, July 16, 7–8:15 pm

### Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussion

After the summer break, the monthly foreign policy discussion series starts again in August. Sign up for each session separately.

Online cohort: Fridays, 1–2:30 pm

August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8

In-person cohort: Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12 pm

August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20



## Software & Career Development

### Job Search AI

Get ready for a hiring process powered by artificial intelligence. Job Search Like a Pro's Erica Reckamp shares AI tools to streamline your search and tips to optimize your application materials for AI-driven systems. Presented in partnership with the member libraries of the Lake Cook Career Collaborative at [CareerCollab.org](https://CareerCollab.org).

Tuesday, June 4, 7–8 pm 

### Intro to Python

This three-session class gets you started with Python, a high-level, general-purpose programming language. Begin with Variables, Data Types and Expressions, then explore Operations, Functions and Decision Structures, and finally Loops.

Tuesdays, June 11–25, 7–8:30 pm 

### Google Apps

Get started with Google's free and popular apps. These small-group classes are taught at a relaxed pace with time for practice and questions. Choose the sessions that interest you.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm 

June 20: Gmail Basics

June 27: Google Drive

### ChatGPT

Explore the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through ChatGPT, an AI-powered tool for content creation. This hands-on class covers uses and opportunities, writing AI prompts, analyzing responses, and risks and limitations.

Tuesday, August 27, 7–8:30 pm 

## Maker/Tech

### Canva for Sublimation Printing

Class covers creating a Canva account, the Canva user interface, removing backgrounds and unwanted elements from photos, and specific design considerations for sublimation printing like spacing and sizing. Note: To print the designs you create in this class, sign up for one of the Open Makerspace sessions listed separately. Choose from three dates and times.

Tuesday, June 4, 7–8:30 pm 

Thursday, July 18, 2–3:30 pm

Tuesday, August 6, 2–3:30 pm

### Open Makerspace

Work on projects of your choosing. Supplies will be available for sublimation printing, precision cutting, and a variety of crafts. Signup is required.

Thursday, June 6, 1–3 pm 

Tuesday, July 23, 6:30–8:30 pm

Sunday, August 18, 1–3 pm

### Maker Class: Baseball Caps

Use Canva to create a design, then use library equipment to imprint it on a baseball cap. Supplies to make one hat are included.

Thursday, June 13, 6:30–8:30 pm 



Card Making, August 8

### Maker Class: Personalized Tumblers

Celebrate our golden anniversary with a personalized Vernon Area Public Library tumbler using a digital photo you provide and the library sublimation printer. Supplies to make one tumbler are included.

Thursday, July 11, 6:30–8:30 pm 

### Maker Class: Card Making

Create greeting cards with dimension using a die cutting machine to create intriguing shapes from a variety of materials. Supplies are included.

Thursday, August 8, 6:30–8:30 pm 

### 3D Printing

Learn to model or modify object files using Tinkercad, then print them on the 3D printer. Sign up for each session separately.

Thursdays, 7–8 pm 

August 15: Basics

August 22: Design Considerations

August 29: Moving Parts

### Restoring Photos with GIMP

Use GIMP — a free open-source alternative to Photoshop — to restore color and repair damage on your digitized photos.

Tuesday, August 20, 7–8:30 pm 



## Summer Library Celebration

all ages

Celebrate 50 great years of library service with this retro-themed fest for all ages. Enjoy groovy live music from Old Town School, vintage arcade games, and ice cream treats. Pick up materials to be part of this year's Summer Library Club for all ages during your visit — or claim your first reward if you're ready! Drop in between 1 and 3 pm. No signup required.

Sunday, June 9, 1–3 pm 🌳🏛️

### THANK YOU TO SUMMER READING SPONSORS

*Tamarak Day Camp and Country School • Vernon Hills Gymnastics • Movement and Sound Dance • Woodman's Market • Culver's of Lincolnshire • Lou Malnati's Pizzeria • RATIO Design • Graber & Gyllenhaal Orthodontics • Play Hard Hoops • Lincolnshire Animal Hospital*



# Summer Library Club

June 1 – July 31

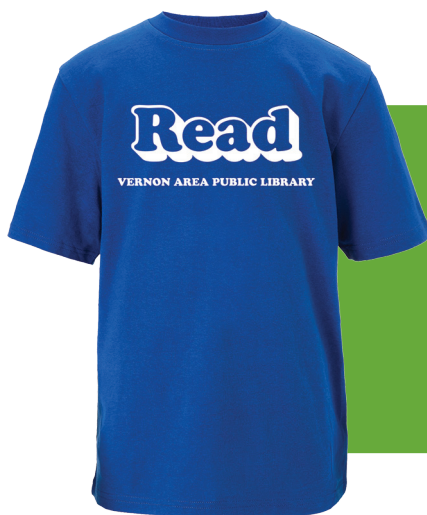
Many book lovers will say the summer reading program at their childhood library was the thing that started them on a lifelong path of reading and learning.

They'll reminisce about relaxed summer days off from school spent at the cool oasis of the library. How fun it was to pick any book and get lost in it! Exciting stories, fascinating facts ... The pages flew by and the summer reading log filled up quickly.

When their tracking sheet was completely full, they'd show it to the librarian, who was always impressed. "Pick a prize!" the librarian would say. The feeling of pride and accomplishment stayed with them long after the trinket was forgotten.

To celebrate our 50th year, VAPLD Summer Library Club 2024 aims to capture that magic for both children and adults.

This summer's program is fun and flexible. Just pick up a checklist and complete the activities you choose at your own pace. The checklist provides a challenge, a small amount of structure, and lots of ideas of things to do or try — what you do is up to you. Earn a "halfway" reward after completing half the activities; complete all activities for a "finisher" prize and raffle entry. Rewards vary by age group. Visit [VAPLD.info/summer](https://vapld.info/summer) for details.



## New This Year: T-Shirts

The first 1,000 children who sign up for Summer Library Club will receive a "Read" t-shirt, a gift from the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District and generous community sponsors. For children entering 5th grade in the fall or younger. Ongoing while supplies last, beginning Saturday, June 1.

# Building a Foundation for the Future



Jane Berman,  
Foundation for the Vernon  
Area Public Library District  
Vice President

The Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library continues its mission to support the library's programs, kicking off 2024 with a \$1,500 donation to the library for the purchase of 100 copies of this year's "One Book, One Community" book. The Foundation distributed copies of *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb to patrons who signed up for the program. The author spoke in person to participants from Vernon Area and neighboring Cook Memorial and Indian Trails library districts in February at the close of the annual series.

Members of the Foundation Board of Directors appeared at the always-popular Vernon Area Library Volunteer Fair held in March. At the fair, board members continued their work on spreading the news of the Foundation's work, and on recruitment of new board members and volunteers. The Foundation invites any interested residents to consider contributing their time and talents to the library through participation in the Foundation's activities. We are interested in hearing from you: do you have a little time, some ideas, and maybe a passion for the library? Please get in touch!

The next major Foundation effort will be support of the library's annual summer reading program. The board has been thrilled with the support and sponsorships already given by a number of generous local businesses. We plan to use the support and sponsorship money to aid the library's celebration of its 50th anniversary this summer by providing t-shirts to children participating in this year's Summer Library Club. Sponsors will be recognized on the t-shirts and in other promotional channels associated with the Summer Library Club.

The Foundation would be grateful for your help to support these ambitious gifts to our library and our community. We ask that you join us today by making a one-time monetary gift. Any amount helps our Foundation, but \$15 or more will help us to purchase commemorative t-shirts for the kids this summer.

Donating to the Foundation is easy and secure. You can donate securely online at [VAPLD.info/foundation](http://VAPLD.info/foundation) or via a donation envelope, available at the library near the community bulletin board.

## About the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District

Our goal is simple: make our library as awesome as possible for all patrons, without raising local taxes. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity affiliated with the Vernon Area Public Library District. The Foundation is raising general donations to support library programs, including sponsorship of speakers and special events. The Foundation also works to secure major gifts to help fund larger goals in the library's strategic plan, such as long-term building improvements and sustainability projects.

If you would like to become involved with the Foundation or would like to discuss a major gift, we will be pleased to speak with you. Please email us at [info@FVAPLD.org](mailto:info@FVAPLD.org), and a Foundation Director will reach out.





# Get Involved in the Democratic Process



Alexandra Filindra, Ph.D.,  
Political Scientist in  
Residence

As the 2024 election approaches, you may be wondering what you can do to support the democratic process. Of course you can make a difference with your vote — don't forget that many local races are decided by a few hundred or even fewer votes! You can also have an impact by volunteering your time at a campaign or election administration office. Our political system relies on a large number of citizen volunteers to run an election, and that involvement makes our democracy richer.

Here are some ideas about how to get involved:

**Become a poll worker or an election judge.** Poll workers help run the election at the precinct level. Election judges supervise the precinct volunteers. Becoming an election worker is also a great way to gain confidence in the integrity of our election system. Each state provides training to all poll workers to follow the election laws and rules. The United States Election Assistance Commission provides information for citizens who want to be poll workers.

In Illinois, such programs are run by the counties. To serve as a poll worker or judge, you must be registered to vote in the county or a student at an area college or university. Contact the Lake County Clerk's office for information ([LakeCountyClerk.info](mailto:LakeCountyClerk.info), 847-377-2408, or [ElectionJudge@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:ElectionJudge@lakecountyil.gov)).

**Become a pollwatcher.** Also, parties and independent organizations often send observers to the polls. The purpose of observers is to increase the transparency of the election system and head off any fears

that ballots are not handled properly. You can contact your preferred party organization for more information on how to be a pollwatcher or observer.

**Volunteer for a political campaign.** This is a great way to experience the inner world of campaigning and get a feel for how people design strategy and make various political decisions. As a campaign volunteer, you may be asked to call potential voters and remind them to turn out on election day. Or you may join others in canvassing: walking around specific neighborhoods and chatting with the voters, introducing them to your candidate, and providing them with print materials on the candidate's positions on the issues. You might even get to meet a local candidate!

**Internship opportunities for high school and college students.** Most elected officials and congressional districts offer internships for students. Tasks might include day-to-day office work, research, assistance with casework matters, or working with the press team. All of our officials have internship information on their websites.

Our democratic system heavily depends on the volunteer labor and political participation of citizens like you! Getting involved demonstrates our commitment to democracy and allows us to meet with friends and neighbors, and even have some fun!

## Election Literacy 2024: Psychology Behind Political Decisions

Political Scientist in Residence Alexandra Filindra, Ph.D., examines factors that influence voter behavior in sometimes surprising ways.

Sunday, August 25, 1–2 pm 🏛️

# Classes & Events *for teens*

Note location with each event (🌿 outdoors, 🏠 indoors, 📺 online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.

## Sublimation: Tote Bags GRADES 6–8

Use Canva to create a design, then use library equipment to imprint it on a tote bag. Supplies are included.

Wednesday, June 5, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm 🏠

## Summer Library Celebration

Celebrate 50 great years of library service with this retro-themed fest for all ages. Enjoy live music, vintage arcade games, and ice cream treats while you sign up for Summer Library Club. Drop in; no signup required.

Sunday, June 9, 1–3 pm 🌿🏠

## Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion GRADES 6–8

Read and discuss books selected as “most outstanding” by Illinois students. Pick up your copy of the book (to keep) at the Youth Desk when you sign up.

Mondays, 7–8 pm 🏠

June 10: *Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation* by Stuart Gibbs

August 12: *The Lost Year* by Katherine Marsh

## Chess Mini Games GRADES 5–8

For beginners. Learn about the pieces, moves, and rules of chess while practicing the basics with smaller chess games.

Wednesday, June 12, 3–4:15 pm 🏠

## Off the Page: A Teen Book Club GRADES 8–12

Participants get a copy of the book to keep and custard (our treat!)

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm 🏠 Culver's, Lincolnshire

June 17: *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi

July 15: *Star Splitter* by Matthew J. Kirby

## DIY Mini Library GRADES 6–12

Assemble a pocket-sized library inside an upcycled tin box to celebrate the library's 50th year.

Tuesday, June 25, 7–8 pm 🏠

## Mobile Museum of Tolerance

Visit these traveling exhibits from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Topics include civil rights, the Anne Frank story, bullying, and digital media literacy. Leave educated and inspired to promote positive change. No signup required.

Thursday, June 27, 2–8 pm or Friday, June 28, 10 am–4 pm 🌿

## Sphero Battle Bots GRADES 6–8

Create armor for a Sphero robot, then challenge your friends to a battle.

Tuesday, July 9, 7–8:15 pm 🏠

## Family Trivia: 1970s Cartoons GRADES K–8

Jinkies! Compete as a family to see how much trivia you know about cartoons from the time the library was new — the 1970s!

Thursday, July 18, 7–8 pm 🏠

## Chess Challenge Meetup GRADES 5–8

Already know how to play chess? Join friends for practice games.

Monday, July 22, 7–8:15 pm 🏠

## Mission: Olympics GRADES 6–12

Work as a team to analyze clues, complete puzzles, and solve the mystery of the missing Olympic torch.

Monday, July 29, 6–8 pm 🌿🏠

## Fabric Painting with Fruit & Vegetables TEENS & ADULTS

Imprint a design on a canvas tote bag or dish towel using “stamps” from the garden or grocery. Art instructor Shari Pontillo of Twisted Fiber Studios leads.

Wednesday, July 31, 4–5:30 pm or 6:30–8 pm 🌿





## Featured Resources *for kids*



### READING RECOMMENDATIONS

NoveList K-8 Plus is an powerful search engine specifically for children's books. Find books by grade, reading level, read-alikes and appeal factors.  
[guides.VAPLD.info/novelistk8](https://guides.VAPLD.info/novelistk8)



### SUMMER READING LISTS

Wondering about your school's assigned summer reading? Find lists for school districts 96, 102 and 103 on the wall near the Award Books.



### EDUCATIONAL WORKSHEETS

Download and print coloring pages and activity packets for pre-K through grade 8 from the education pros at Scholastic. Use your library card to log in.  
[VAPLD.info/teachables](https://VAPLD.info/teachables)

## Classes & Events *for kids*

Note location with each item (🌳 outdoors, 🏠 indoors, 🌐 online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://VAPLD.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.



Laura Doherty, August 2

### Outdoor Family Concerts

Bring the whole family and a blanket to sit on and enjoy a fun outdoor concert on the Annex Lawn in the Library Learning Garden. Families with children of all ages are welcome. Signup is required; walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Fridays, 10–10:45 am 🌳

June 14: Miss Katie Sings

July 19: Sarah Jayne Lane

August 2: Laura Doherty

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am 🌳

June 22: Wendy & DB

July 13: The Dreamtree Shakers

August 24: Little Miss Ann

See also: July 11: Rosie & the Rivets (p.3); July 16: Gincy (p.15)

### Take & Make Craft Kits ALL AGES

Visit the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

June 14: Juneteenth

June 28: Red, White & Blue

July 19: Olympics!

August 9: Giant Bubbles

**Cicada Celebration GRADES K-5**

Celebrate this summer's special insect friends by learning what makes periodical cicadas unique.

Monday, June 3 🌿

Grades K-2: 4:30-5:15 pm

Grades 3-5: 7-7:45 pm

**Plant the Garden GRADES K-5**

Learn gardening basics, then work together to plant vegetables in the community garden.

Thursday, June 6, 11:30 am-12:30 pm 🌿

**Books & Badges: Stories with the Police THRU GRADE 5**

Stories and summer safety tips with our neighborhood law enforcement officers — plus a peek inside their vehicles!

Friday, June 7, 10-11 am 🌿

**Summer Library Celebration ALL AGES**

Celebrate 50 great years of library service with this retro-themed fest for all ages. Live music, ice cream, and new this year: t-shirts for children through grade 5 when you sign up for Summer Library Club, courtesy of the library foundation and generous community sponsors. Free while supplies last.

Sunday, June 9, 1-3 pm 🌿🏛️

**Dog Man Party GRADES 2-5**

Celebrate the release of the latest book in Dav Pilkey's popular *Dog Man* series with games and activities.

Monday, June 10, 1-2 pm or 4-5 pm 🏛️

**All About Cicadas GRADES K-5**

Educators from the Lake County Forest Preserves teach us about the unique 17-year life cycle of Illinois' periodical cicadas. Get an up-close look at preserved specimens and learn about the wild adaptations that have helped this cool critter survive throughout the decades.

Tuesday, June 11 🏛️

4:30-5:15 pm or 5:30-6:15 pm



*Fiftyseven Things to Say, June 18*

**Chess Mini Games GRADES 2-4**

For beginners. Learn about the pieces, moves, and rules of chess while practicing the basics through smaller chess games.

Wednesday, June 12, 1-2:15 pm 🏛️

**Fiftyseven Things to Say with Kelly Campos GRADES K & UP**

Celebrate Juneteenth with a tapestry of African American music and stories. Folk tales, jazz melodies, and personal experience weave together in this performance for families.

Tuesday, June 18, 6:30-7:30 pm 🌿

**Create Art with Miss Jane GRADES K-5**

In celebration of the library's 50th birthday, follow along step-by-step to paint a groovy '70s van, an American symbol of peace and love.

Thursday, June 20 🏛️

Grades K-2: 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7-8 pm

**Family Fridays THRU GRADE 5**

Outdoor fun is back! Bring the whole family to spend time doing activities that promote socialization, problem solving, sensory experiences, and imaginative play. In case of bad weather, we will move inside the main library. No signup required.

Fridays, 10-11 am 🌿

June 21, 28; July 5, 12; August 9

**Squishy Circuits: Birthday Treat GRADES K-5**

Learn about creating a circuit, then build a birthday treat with LED candles to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the library.

Wednesday, June 26 🏛️

Grades K-2 with an adult: 1-2 pm

Grades 3-5: 3-4 pm

**Mobile Museum of Tolerance**

Visit these traveling exhibits from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Topics include civil rights, the Anne Frank story, bullying, and digital media literacy. Leave educated and inspired to promote positive change. No signup required.

Thursday, June 27, 2-8 pm or Friday, June 28, 10 am-4 pm 🌿

**Page-to-Stage Puppet Workshop GRADES K-5**

Construct a shadow puppet with guidance and patterns from the incomparable Sea Beast Puppet Company, then try out your creation.

Thursday, June 27, 4:30-6 pm 🏛️

**Lego Master Builders GRADES K-5**

A special challenge session: show us your dream library! What amazing spaces can you imagine for reading and having fun?

Monday, July 1, 2-3 pm or 4-5 pm 🏛️



**Frog Lady & Friends in the Library Garden** GRADES K-5

A library favorite! Learn about fascinating reptiles and amphibians, live and up-close.

Monday, July 8, 4:30–5:30 pm 🌿

**Sphero Battle Bots** GRADES 3-5

Create armor for a Sphero robot, then challenge your friends to a battle.

Tuesday, July 9, 4:30–5:45 pm 🏠

**Kodable** GRADES K-2

Work with your child as they start learning how to code using Kodable, an online platform that uses games, activities, and cute fuzzy creatures to teach coding concepts.

Wednesday, July 10, 1–2 pm or 3–4 pm 🏠

**Outdoor Concert: Gincy** GRADES K & UP

*It's Cool To Be Kind!* Nationally acclaimed recording artist Gincy shares original songs with inspiring lyrics that encourage a spirit of kindness and welcome.

Tuesday, July 16, 6–7 pm 🌿

**Family Trivia: 1970s Cartoons** GRADES K-8

Jinkies! Compete as a family to see how much you know about cartoons from the time the library was new: the 1970s.

Thursday, July 18, 7–8 pm 🏠

**Chess Challenge Meetup** GRADES 2-4

Already know how to play chess? Join friends for practice games.

Monday, July 22, 4:30–5:45 pm 🏠

**Bluestem Award Book Discussion** GRADES 3-5 WITH AN ADULT

This parent-child book group will discuss *The Magical Imperfect* by Chris Baron. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Thursday, July 25, 7–8 pm 🏠

**T-Rex Olympics** GRADES K-5

Compete against Rory the library T-Rex in events like the pool noodle throw and 5-yard dash. Who will take home the gold?

Friday, July 26, 10–11 am 🌿

**Planet Circus with Pocket Circus** THRU GRADE 5

Wrap up Summer Library Club with an energetic two-person extravaganza filled with magic, humor, acrobatics, costumes, juggling, and tango music. Laughter and applause take the center ring in this dynamic bilingual performance.

Saturday, July 27, 11 am–12 pm 🌿



Firefly Family Theater, July 30

**Yoga Storytime** AGES 3-8

Twist, bend, and stretch in this kid-friendly yoga class. Miss Sarah combines well-being and early literacy while sharing stories, rhymes, and simple poses with you and your child.

Monday, July 29, 10–10:45 am 🌿

**Firefly Family Theatre presents *Under the Stars*** AGES 2-8

Puppets, original music, and interactive movement bring children into the story of Spark the Firefly and her friends gathering around a summer campfire to sing songs, share stories, and marvel at the stars.

Tuesday, July 30, 10–10:45 am 🏠

**Tinkercad: CodeBlocks** GRADES 3-5

Use your imagination and some new tools to make a digital model you can print on a 3D printer.

Tuesday, July 30, 1–2 pm or 3–4 pm 🏠

**Lego Robotics** GRADES K-5

Calling all LEGO fans! Build and program any of the soccer models using the LEGO Education WeDo software in this engaging, hands-on program.

Monday, August 5 🏠

Grades K-2 with an adult: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

**Passport to the World** GRADES K-5

Learn about Denmark, Peru, Philippines, and South Africa as you visit different craft stations.

Tuesday, August 13 🏠

Grades K-2 with an adult: 4:30–5:45 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8:15 pm

# Classes & Events *for early childhood*

## Drop In

*It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun! Free and open to all. Note location with each item (🌿 outdoors, 🏠 indoors, 📺 online).*

### Baby Rhyme Storytime 0-14 MONTHS

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes, and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with your neighbors while your baby plays with educational toys and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 am 🏠

June 5, 12, 19; July 10, 17, 24; August 7, 14, 28

### Wiggling Ones 12-24 MONTHS

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

June 4, 11, 18; July 2, 9, 16; August 6, 13, 20

### Together 2s & 3s AGES 2-3

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

June 3, 10, 17; July 1, 8, 15; August 5, 12, 19

### Preschool Storytime AGES 3-5

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening, and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

June 6, 13, 20; July 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15

### Starry Night Storytime AGES 0-6

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6-6:30 pm 🏠

June 13, July 18, August 22

### Summer Library Celebration ALL AGES

Celebrate 50 great years of library service with this retro-themed fest for all ages. Enjoy live music and ice cream while you sign up for Summer Library Club. New this year: t-shirts for children age 0 through grade 5, courtesy of the library foundation and generous community sponsors. Drop in.

Sunday, June 9, 1-3 pm 🌿🏠



### Family Fridays ALL AGES

Outdoor fun is back! Bring the whole family to spend time doing activities that promote socialization, problem solving, sensory experiences, and imaginative play. In case of bad weather, we will move inside the main library.

Fridays, 10-11 am 🌿

June 21, 28; July 5, 12; August 9

### Birthday Storytime AGES 0-6

Happy birthday to you ... and the library! Celebrate the library's 50th year with books, songs and dancing.

Tuesday, June 25, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

### Music & Movement Storytime AGES 0-6




Read, sing, and dance together in a musical storytime with Miss Julia.

Tuesday, August 27, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠





## Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up in advance at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar), by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. Note location with each item ( outdoors,  indoors,  online).

### Sun & Fun Storytime AGES 0–6

An outdoor storytime with tunes, dancing, rhymes and read-alouds. Sign up for each session separately.

10–10:30 am 

Saturday, June 1; Monday, June 24; Saturday, July 20;  
Tuesday, July 23; Saturday, August 3

### Evening Stories with Miss Emily AGE 3–GRADE 2

Wind down with an end-of-the-day storytime that you can log into from your bed! Sign up for each month separately.

Wednesdays, 7–7:30 pm 

June 5, 12, 19; July 10, 17, 24; August 7, 14, 21

### Books & Badges: Stories with the Police

Stories and summer safety tips with our neighborhood law enforcement officers — plus a peek inside their police cars!

Friday, June 7, 10–11 am 

### Family Concerts

Bring the whole family and a blanket to sit on and enjoy a fun outdoor concert on the Annex Lawn in the Library Learning Garden. Families with children of all ages are welcome.

Fridays, 10–10:45 am 

June 14: Miss Katie Sings

July 19: Sarah Jayne Lane

August 2: Laura Doherty

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am 


June 22: Wendy & DB

July 13: Dreamtree Shakers

August 24: Little Miss Ann

### Sunshine Squad AGES 0–6

Stories and activities focused on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation make the world a kinder, sunnier place for everyone.

10–10:45 am 

Saturday, June 15: Library Joy

Wednesday, July 31: Managing Your Grouchies

### Mini Math Magicians AGES 3–5

Explore math concepts through books, games and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10–10:30 am 

June 27, August 22

### Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin AGES 0–6

Introduce your child to the sounds of Mandarin, spoken by many families in our area — perhaps even your own! Miss Laura leads stories, songs, and rhymes in English and Chinese.

Monday, July 22, 10–10:30 am 

### Planet Circus with Pocket Circus AGE 0–GRADE 5

Wrap up Summer Library Club with an energetic two-person extravaganza filled with magic, humor, acrobatics, costumes, juggling, and tango music. Laughter and applause take the center ring in this dynamic bilingual performance.

Saturday, July 27, 11 am–12 pm 

### Yoga Storytime AGES 3–8

Twist, bend, and stretch in this kid-friendly yoga class. Miss Sarah combines well-being and early literacy while sharing stories, rhymes, and simple poses with you and your child.

Monday, July 29, 10–10:45 am 

### Firefly Family Theatre presents *Under the Stars* AGES 2–8

Puppets, original music, and interactive movement bring children into the story of Spark the Firefly and her friends, gathering around a summer campfire to sing songs, share stories, and marvel at the stars.

Tuesday, July 30, 10–10:45 am 

### Science Detectives AGES 3–6

STEM-themed stories and activities with Miss Lisa Marie.

Friday, August 16, 10–10:30 am 

### Retro Drive-In Movie & Craft AGES 2–5

Help celebrate the library's 50th birthday year with a throwback "drive-in movie" experience! Transform a cardboard box into a groovy vintage automobile. Supplies provided.

Saturday, August 17, 10–10:45 am 


### Korean Story Time AGES 0–6

Celebrate the stories, songs, and rhymes of Korea with a native speaker from The Language Labs.

Friday, August 23, 10–10:30 am 

### Preschool Teacher Professional Development: Let's Sing a Song with Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet FOR PRESCHOOL EDUCATORS

Parent's Choice award winning musicians and educators lead this workshop for preschool teachers. Teachers receive two PD credits. Open to all preschool educators. RSVP required.

Thursday, August 8, 9:45 am–12 pm 

Vernon Area Public Library  
300 Olde Half Day Rd.  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

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### Connect

[VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info)

Main: 847-634-3650

Text: 847-565-6457

**App:** Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

### Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at [VAPLD.info/card](http://VAPLD.info/card) or visit.

### Returns

Return materials 24/7 to the drive-up slot on the front of the library or at these drop boxes:  
[VAPLD.info/bookdrops](http://VAPLD.info/bookdrops)

*This magazine is printed on  
30% PCW recycled paper*

### Open

Monday–Thursday	9 am – 9 pm
Friday–Saturday	9 am – 5 pm
Sunday	10 am – 5 pm

Before-hours access is available daily for people who prefer a “mask required” environment. See [VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info) or call 847-634-3650 for info about special operating hours.

### Closed

Sunday–Monday, May 26–27  
Thursday, July 4



### ▲ Check this out

Library Learning Garden spaces have been upgraded for 2024, including solar-powered USB chargers and seating made from recycled (and recyclable) plastic — choices that support the library's commitment to sustainability while providing flexible, desirable spaces for public use.